

Appl. No. 10/648,071
Atty. Docket No. 7193CDQ
Amdt. dated September 29, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 29, 2005
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article adapted to receive feces having a first waist region, a second waist region opposed to the first waist region, a crotch region disposed between the first waist region and the second waist region, the absorbent article comprising:

a liquid pervious topsheet;

a liquid impervious backsheet joined to at least a portion of the topsheet;

an absorbent core disposed between at least a portion of the topsheet and the backsheet, and

~~an effective amount of a feces modifying agent disposed in the article such that~~
the feces modifying agent is available to contact at least a portion of the feces deposited in the article, wherein the feces modifying agent is present in an effective amount sufficient to decrease ~~decreases~~ the Hardness of at least a portion of the feces by greater than about 25% when the feces modifying agent is present at a concentration of no more than about 5 weight percent.

2. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the feces modifying agent is selected from the group consisting of: sulfites, thiols, thiol alcohols, mercaptoacetic acid, sodium thioglycolate, thiolactic acid, thioglycoamide, glycerol monothioglycolate, borohydrides, tertiary amines, thiocyanates, thiosulfates, cyanides, thiophosphates, arsenites, phosphines, phenols, betaines, lithium aluminumhydride, aluminum chloride, guanidine hydrochloride, stannous chloride, hydroxylamine, and $\text{LiHB}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$.

3. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which decreases the viscosity of the feces.

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4. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which decreases the Hardness of the feces by at least about 25% at a concentration of no more than about 0.5 weight percent.

5. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 4 wherein the decrease in Hardness takes place in no more than about 5 minutes.

6. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which decreases the Hardness of at least a portion of the feces by at least about 25% at a concentration of no more than about 1.5 weight percent.

7. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 6 wherein the decrease in Hardness takes place in no more than about 3 minutes.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the decrease in Hardness takes place in no more than about 3 minutes.

10. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which is present in a concentration of greater than or equal to about 0.01% by weight of the article.

11. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which is disposed on a carrier structure.

12. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 11 wherein the carrier structure includes a skin care composition.

13. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 12 wherein the skin care composition includes components selected from the following group: petroleum oils, petroleum waxes, silicone oils and silicone waxes.

14. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 11 wherein the carrier structure includes a web.

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15. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 11 wherein the carrier structure includes a brush structure wherein the brush structure includes feces modifying agent.

16. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which is releasably attached to at least a portion of the article.

17. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 16 wherein the reducing agent is releasably attached to at least a portion of the article by attachment means selected from the following group: water soluble adhesive or hydrogen bonding.

18. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1 further including at least one three-dimensional structure joined to or extending from an element of the absorbent article, the three-dimensional structure comprising the feces modifying agent which comprises a reducing agent, wherein the three-dimensional structure promotes contact between the reducing agent and the feces.

19. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 18 wherein at least some of the three-dimensional structures comprise printed hairs, wherein the printed hairs include feces modifying agent thereon.

20. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which is disposed adjacent a water soluble film.

21. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1 further comprising a gas evolving system including at least one composition which evolves gas when mixed with water, wherein the gas evolving system delivers the feces modifying agent which comprises a reducing agent to the feces.

22. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 1 further comprising a gas evolving system including a water soluble material containing compressed gas

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which evolves when mixed with water, wherein the gas evolving system delivers the feces modifying agent which comprises a reducing agent to the feces.

23-37. (Canceled).

38. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article to be fitted to a wearer having a first waist region, a second waist region opposed to the first waist region, a crotch region disposed between the first waist region and the second waist region, the absorbent article comprising:

- a liquid pervious topsheet;
- a liquid impervious backsheet joined to at least a portion of the topsheet;
- an absorbent core disposed between at least a portion of the topsheet and the backsheet, and

- a responsive system including a sensor operatively connected to the article, the sensor adapted to detect an input, and an actuator operatively connected to the article, the actuator being adapted to deliver an effective amount of a feces modifying agent to the feces in response to a detection of the input by ~~when the sensor detects the input.~~

39. (Currently Amended) A disposable article adapted to be applied to a wearer's perianal region for receiving feces, the article comprising:

- a substrate; and
- a means for holding the substrate in contact with the wearer perianal region; and
- ~~an effective amount of a feces modifying a reducing agent disposed in the article such that the feces modifying agent is and~~ available to contact at least a portion of the feces deposited in the article and to physically or chemically modify at least a portion of the feces deposited in the article wherein said ~~feces modifying reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of: sulfites, thiols, alcohols, mercaptoacetic acid, sodium thioglycolate, thiolactic acid, thioglycoamide, glycerol monothioglycolate, borohydrides, tertiary amines, thiocyanates, thiosulfates, cyanides, thiophosphates, arsenites, phosphines, betaines, hydroxylamine, and $\text{LiHB}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$, wherein the feces modifying agent~~ present in an amount sufficient to decrease decreases the Hardness of at least a portion of the feces by greater than about 25% when the reducing agent is present at a concentration of no more than about 5 weight percent.

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40 (New) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the feces modifying agent is disposed on a carrier structure.

41. (New) The absorbent article as recited in claim 38, wherein the actuator is adapted to deliver the feces modifying agent in an amount suitable to decrease the Hardness of at least a portion of the feces by greater than about 25% when the feces modifying agent is present at a concentration of no more than about 5 weight percent.

42. (New) The absorbent article as recited in claim 38, wherein the feces modifying agent is selected from the group consisting of: sulfites, thiols, thiol alcohols, mercaptoacetic acid, sodium thioglycolate, thiolactic acid, thioglycoamide, glycerol monothioglycolate, borohydrides, tertiary amines, thiocyanates, thiosulfates, cyanides, thiophosphates, arsenites, phosphines, phenols, betaines, lithium aluminumhydride, aluminum chloride, guanidine hydrochloride, stannous chloride, hydroxylamine, and $\text{LiHB}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$.

43. (New) The absorbent article as recited in claim 38, wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which decreases the viscosity of the feces.

44. (New) The absorbent article as recited in claim 38, wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which decreases the Hardness of the feces by at least about 25% when the reducing agent is present at a concentration of no more than about 0.5 weight percent.

45. (New) The absorbent article as recited in claim 44, wherein the decrease in Hardness takes place in no more than about 5 minutes.

46. (New) The absorbent article of claim 38, wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which decreases the Hardness of at least a portion of the feces by at least about 25% when the feces modifying agent is present at a concentration of no more than about 1.5 weight percent.

47. (New) The absorbent article as recited in claim 46, wherein the decrease in Hardness takes place in no more than about 3 minutes.

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48. (New) The absorbent article as recited in claim 38, wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which is present in a concentration of greater than or equal to about 0.01% by weight of the article.

49. (New) The absorbent article as recited in claim 38, wherein the feces modifying agent comprises a reducing agent which is disposed adjacent a water soluble film.

50. (New) The disposable article as recited in claim 39, wherein said reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of: sulfites, thiols, alcohols, mercaptoacetic acid, sodium thioglycolate, thilactice acid, theioglycoamide, glycerol monothioglycolate, borohydrides, tertiary amines, thiocyanates, thiosulfates, cyanides, thiophosphates, arsenites, phosphines, betaines, hydroxylamine, and $\text{LiHB}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_3$.